Resolutions:—1. Museum—Steps to hamper its development, etc.—*cont.*

President.—We shall continue the discussion on yesterday's resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Yesterday the resolution that was moved here was one requesting the Government to desist from taking any action that would hamper the growth of the museum in Trichur. In that question there have been different views and the two gentlemen who are very much interested in the town of Trichur took opposite views. All I have to say is that so far as the Municipality is concerned, there is also a divergence of opinion in the matter so much so we do not consider it necessary either to take a vote or to inform the Government as to our opinion about the matter or as to our desire in the matter. There is a difference of opinion there too. Therefore what I am going to say is only the individual opinion and my opinion is very clear, that it is unsuitable for both the parties to meet together. Either the museum must go elsewhere or the compound must be handed over to the museum. It is true that this compound was purchased a few years ago at a prohibitive cost, I believe, at Rs. 25,000 for a few acres and cents. It is a very high value, no doubt, for that locality and the intention at that time was that in course of time, if it was found necessary to extend the museum, this compound may be made use of. But it is doubtful even if you take this additional compound that you would meet all the requirements of the museum as it develops. Therefore you will have to acquire further land on the western side. Also in course of time the whole block of land on that side will have to be acquired for the museum—a very important and a nice residential centre. You will have to acquire the whole plot of ground.

Now, even if you acquire the whole plot of ground the existence of the museum occasionally gives trouble to the neighbours. If it gives trouble to the neighbours it ought to give more trouble to my Hon'ble friend when he resides close by. We used to get occasional complaints from the neighbours about the bad stink sometimes emanating from the museum, owing to the remains of the flesh and bones left behind and occasionally we had to request the museum authorities to see that these things are kept in a proper condition.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is with regard to the zoo.

Dr A. R. Menon.—The museum and the zoo together combined. There is the complaint and anybody who lives near by will feel it an awful business to be so close to the museum. The roaring of the lions, the trumpetting of the elephants,

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the braying of the asses, the grunting of the wild boar and the hissing of the snakes all together produce a combination of noises which is likely to upset an evenly balanced mind. It has been said by a scientific ornament among the fraternity of philosophers, by Prof. Shabbinol, that this is a great difficulty in not having a block supplied to human race so that when any unpleasant noise is produced or when an unpleasant speech is delivered the block may be put over the ears. Since we do not possess this, the conglomeration of noises would upset even the ordinary man. It would upset much more an evenly balanced man or a philosophic person possessing a philosophic disposition. And it is essential to keep an equanimity of mind when we are dealing with subjects such as the existence of a soul and subjects of a similar nature. Therefore it would be very irksome to be a neighbour to the museum. It will be a very irksome thing for my Hon'ble friend to be near the museum. On the other hand the animals also don't like human beings and they would like to go to Anappara where, according to the statement of the Hon'ble Members, lions and tigers are roaring, so that they may be in the neighbourhood of their own species. And my friend has also given notice of another resolution for shifting the courts from here to Anappara. I think the museum and the law courts together will be a beautiful picture and it will be a very grand idea indeed. So far as I am concerned I stick to the old place, so that the parties may not meet together. Neither party likes the existence of the other. One or the other must go. And it is for the Government representing the animals to decide whether they would go and it is for my Hon'ble friend to decide whether he would go.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—I rise to support this resolution. Very often we find that the rumour we get at Tekkinkad Maidan or the Irwin Park is as reliable as the information we get from the Government side on the floor of this House. The other day I heard that the Government has a proposal to assign certain lands adjoining to the museum, to the consort of His Highness the late Ex.-Maharaja and that they are going to transfer the museum to Anappara. With regard to the assignment of lands to the consort I have no complaint at all. Let her have a suitable residence in Cochin State, preferably in Trichur. With regard to the transfer of the museum, I never thought that the Government would commit such a high-handed deed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Government did nothing.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Yesterday when the motion was tabled here, the Hon'ble Member for Antikkad

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asked for information from the Government side whether they have got any proposal for the transfer of the museum. Then the Government Secretary said they had not got any definite proposal. But yesterday itself after lunch we were able to gather that one day the Diwan had a visit to Anappara —I don't know whether it was the permanent or the acting Diwan—anyhow the Diwan had a visit to Anappara and in his fancy thought thatit should be a beautiful idea if the zoo were transferred there. To-day it is only an idea in the mind of the Diwan. To-morrow perhaps it may be a proposal on the part of the Government and day after to-morrow or by the time the next Council meets it would be an accomplished fact and it will be too late for us tomake any voice of protest. Therefore I am highly thankful to the Hon'ble Member for Antikkad for bringing this resolutionin proper time. We have to look at this question from a disinterested point of view. What is the position at present? We are having a museum at Trichur which is sufficiently far away from the busy parts of Trichur. It is sufficiently far awayfrom the bazaar and other busy centres of Trichur town and it is also sufficiently near to have access to all sorts of people. If it is going to be transferred to Anappara certainly those who can afford to have the luxury of a car can alone go there and have a visit. But from the statistics we find that year by year the number of visitors to the museum are on the increase. If it is transferred to Anappara I am sure there would be a definite decline in the number of visitors. For example, there is one famous hill some 4 miles west of Trichur. I am referring to the Vilangan. It is a very beautiful spot of scenery. But still very few people resort to that place, because it is very far away from the town. If this museum is going to be shifted to Anappara that also will occupy the same position as the Vilangan. Idon't know why the Diwan had such an idea. Perhaps it may be due to his humanitarian feelings. He thought that all these wild animals and snakes which are segregated there from their fellow creatures would be quite uncomfortable in the town and that they would find better company at Anappara. Then another Diwan perhaps may be more humanitarian. He might say why do you want a zoo at Anappara? Even without a zoo we can have all the luxuries of it and it may be abolished. Therefore, if we are to dance to the particular tunes of successive Diwans I hope we will be nowhere. I am surprised to find the Hon'ble Member for Trichur saying yesterday that it will be a very nice idea and it will be better for Trichur if it is transferred to Anappara. I don't understand what is the attitude taken by the Hon'ble Member

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for Cheruviruthy, who may rightly be called the first citizen of Trichur who is responsible for many of the improvements of that town. I don't know whether he will vote for the transfer of the museum to the wilderness of Anappara. As regards I am concerned I give my emphatic protest against the idea of the Government, if at all they have any idea to transfer the museum from the present place.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know whether the Government really opposes this resolution?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government opposes this resolution. Of course this is a motion risen as a result of the granting of the site.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—What will be the exact position?

Mr. U. Kanadr Menon.—Government have not decided to shift the museum from that place.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—The resolution says "to desist from taking steps which would hamper". Did they take any steps which would hamper its development?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Government are not doing anything and what is it that induced the Hon'ble Member to table this resolution?

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—If the Government opposes the resolution we will take it that they are bent upon taking measures which would hamper its growth.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I will explain the position.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The resolution is for the purpose of requesting the Government that they should not do anything to hamper the development of the museum and therefore from that aspect of it I support the resolution. Some people are inclined to think very lightly of museums, zoological gardens and things of that sort. They think that these are mere trifles. In the wild roar of the lions and the hissing of the snakes there is perhaps a good deal of philosophy, or at least a good deal for a philosopher to think and learn. Let not members speak so lightly of philosophy and the science of the study of the animal kingdom. If one would look and find out, one would be able to find a lot of philosophy in it. In fact the museum and the zoological gardens are institutions of very great interest to several people, though some people may not care for them. Those who calculate life in the shape of rupees, annas and pies probably will not care much for them. At least some of us can appreciate such institutions very much and such people consider these institutions to be absolute necessities here, especially where education is advancing. Whatever Hon'ble Members

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might speak of the hissing of the snakes, there is music in the hissing of the snakes if people know how to work for it. The greatest of the philosophers probably discovered some of the greatest of their theories and other principles by observing and studying the animal kingdom. How you are evolved from the monkey, how the reptiles gave rise to the birds, how the worms evolved into the chordata which gave rise eventually to vertebrates, and various other instructive studies especially to those who have got some interest in it have all been found out by observation of animals. So to have an institution like that one we have and to develop it is an absolute necessity. I do not think any right-thinking man will say that these institutions should be done away with. We should do everything in our power to develop it and to encourage its expansion.

I have absolutely nothing to say with regard to the assignment. I understand that the whole fight now turns upon that assignment question. If, as a matter of fact, the particular site has been assigned to that distinguished lady, and if the Government cannot go back upon it now, I do not think we can request Government to do anything further. But I only say that nothing should be done here after to prevent the development of the museum. I think the present site is in a very suitable locality. Especially an institution like the museum and zoo ought to be in the vicinity of the educational institutions and teachers should take their children very often to give them object lessons on natural history. It should not be located in a far off distant place. It should be no doubt in the vicinity of the schools. One Member was saying yesterday that even though the eastern portion of the museum compound is already gone, on the western side, there are plots of land which may be acquired for the purpose of its extension. But he said also that there is no water there. I suppose that water is absolutely necessary, as the animals will have to be kept and plants will have to be grown. But if water can be supplied from other sources, that place may suffice for the extension of the zoo. At any rate, I understand that the Government are not contemplating any attempt to disfigure the existing zoological gardens or to curtail its extent. In that case, I would say that there is no necessity for this resolution. But I only wanted to take this opportunity to emphasise and impress upon the Government the necessity for developing institutions of this sort. There is a great educative value for such institutions. In fact the study of nature is becoming more and more important. And our College also has the branches of zoology and botany affiliated, so much so the necessity for a mu-

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seum and zoological gardens has become much more at present. There are very many instructive and interesting things for students kept there. I only want to emphasise upon the necessity of keeping that institution intact and giving it all facilities to develop further. I think the shifting of this institution from the present site to Anappara would not be suitable for the very same reason that Anappara was found unsuitable for the existence of a college.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I beg to support this resolution, because, as the resolution stands, I find it is quite a harmless thing and a very necessary measure. The resolution wants only this, that the Government should desist from taking any steps which would hamper the natural growth of the museum or compel its being removed to another site. This is all what the resolution wants. If, in the speeches references were made to the assignments and so on that is no reason why this resolution should be opposed. Let us make things clear. It is by far better to have the museum at Trichur rather at Anappara. Many Members have testified to that and they have given arguments for the same. A museum including the zoo is a poor man's pleasure. Just if we look at the numbers resorting to the museum on an Onam day, or on the day of Christmas or Easter, on days of festivities we will find hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the museum. It is the poor men's pleasure, and a cheap luxury for them. They could not afford to go to a distant place just to have a look at the lions or tigers or some of these poisonous snakes. When a circus comes to Trichur they charge half an anna or one anna, just to have a look at some of these animals. Now the people of Trichur do not spend much on this account because they have a museum there and they could have a look at these animals without any charge. Not only the people of Trichur but also people coming from other places—it is by personal experience that I say—most of them will pitch upon a particular day to go to the museum and visit the animals there. In fact nobody fails to avail himself of that opportunity just to have a look at these animals and to see the wonderful things there. Public money has been spent on such things and every civilised Government is trying to spend more and more on such public enterprises, so that the people at very cheap cost may have a large amount of satisfaction. Such satisfaction the people can get only if the museum is at Trichur. If it is transferred to far away Anappara I am sure the people will have very little chance of enjoing the advantages of making use of the facilities afforded by the museum. It is even unfortunate that it

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is not made more accessible to the people and that certain restrictions there are in admissions and so on. The public of Trichur make use of the museum as much as they could. So the complaint is that the museum should be made more accessible so that more people could make use of it. Therefore granting that the best place for the museum is in Trichur, it follows as a necessary conclusion that the Government should desist from taking any steps which would hamper the natural development of that place.

Now if the Government holds that the assignment of a particular plot to the east of the museum would not in any way hamper the natural development of the museum, well, let them do that. There is no complaint about it and they need not oppose the resolution on that score. On the contrary, if they think and if they honestly think that the assignment of that portion of the museum compound to any party would hamper the natural development of the museum, well, in fairness they ought not do that. So the question turns on these alternatives, either the assignment is or is not prejudicial to the natural development of the museum. If it is not prejudicial the Government has no reason whatever to oppose this resolution, because this resolution contemplates or requests Government only to desist from taking any action which would hamper its natural development. Therefore, they have no reason to do that. But if it is the other alternative that the assignment would tamper with or is prejudicial to the natural development of the museum, in all fairness they ought not to do that, granting that the best place for the museum is Trichur. Therefore I suppose the Government will not make its mind to oppose this resolution. Seeing that the request in the resolution is only a harmless one and because it is a harmless thing I support this resolution.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I oppose the resolution for more reasons than one. In the first place, for the wording of the resolution itself I take objection and secondly, for the indirect way in which an object is aimed to be attained. Now the resolution as it stands says that the Government may be pleased to desist from taking any steps which would hamper the natural development of the museum or compel its being removed to outside Trichur, as if the Government intends taking a step which would hamper the development of the museum. The insinuation is that anything attempted to be done by the Government would necessarily be a step which would hamper the natural development. Now it is seen that the whole question has turned upon the assignment of a portion of the area which was intended to be utilised for museum purposes is being given by the

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Government for some other purpose. If as a matter of fact that was the step contemplated by Government which, in the opinion of the mover of the resolution, is a step which would hamper the development what was there to prevent the Hon'ble Member from saying that that should not be done? Instead of that why should the proposer insinuate that the step attempted to be taken by the Government would hamper, without mentioning what that step is.

Secondly, I object also on the ground that though the wording includes only the museum, the complaint is that full development for the museum as well as the zoo cannot be had there without this additional acreage. Now, my submission to the House is in the first place, Government has to oppose this motion on the ground that it insinuates that the Government is contemplating to hamper the natural development. Without going more in the details I find some answers given yesterday that even after the assignment of this 2 and odd acres there would remain a little over five acres for museum purposes. Now, I respectly ask the House to point out any museum anywhere in India which has taken up an area of over 5 acres.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Trivandrum, please.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I deny. If we take the museum and the zoo together there may be more than 5 acres. But I am speaking only of the museum.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We do not differentiate one from the other.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The biggest museum that I know of in India is the Victoria museum in Calcutta and I am sure the premises do not take any more than 5 acres.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Here also five acres mean, including the zoo.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Of course, I will come to it. Then the only question is with regard to the incorporation of the zoo also in the museum premises. That I respectfully beg to submit is a matter in which there is considerable difference of opinion. Though I am not an interested Member so far as Trichur is concerned, according to the definition of the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi I am interested both in the museum and the zoo and the step taken by the Government in saying that the dignity of the Government is not impaired in any way by any resolution passed by this House. Now, if it is a question of locating the zoo also in this, I say, with due deference to all the Hon'ble Members that Trichur or the premises of the museum is not a fit place for a zoo. (*Hear, hear*). As was adverted to by some Hon'ble Member yesterday the origin or the first

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location of the zoo was not in Trichur and I believe that zoo was brought to Trichur at the request or some representation from the people of Trichur. Because no other place was found convenient or available for the location of the zoo it was placed near the premises of the museum. My respectful submission is that it is not the fittest place for a zoo. Of course, only adverting to one principle of location of zoos I say that it is necessary for the full development of the animals maintained in the zoo—that I believe is a principle accepted by great Zoologists—that thesurroundings should be made as natural as possible or in other words as the original surroundings in which the animals are born and bread up.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—A grand idea.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Yes. It is a grand idea. The whole forests have been enclosed and protected for the maintenance of the zoo. What about the Kruger Park in Africa? Therefore, let us be frank. If it is a question of the maintenance of the zoo in Trichur, so far as I conceive, that is the only question because nothing is seen to have been done to hamper the development of the museum. But if the Hon'ble Member includes the zoo also in the museum, I respectfully beg to submit that it is a matter in which there is considerable difference of opinion. In such a case I do not see why till the time comes for taking a definite step with regard to the zoo all this matter should have been threshed out at this stage. My submission to the Hon'ble Members is that the proposition as it stands by insinuating an act on the part of the Government which would hamper the natural development of the museum on that ground alone it ought to be opposed. I am for the other. As far as I conceive there is no proposal before the Government to transfer the museum as it is. Under these circumstances and for these reasons I oppose the resolution.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, I have not had the benefit of the experience of the Kruger Park in Africa nor have I derived any philosophy from the roaring of the lions, the braying of the asses and the hissing of snakes. But I should like to indulge in a bit of plain speaking. From the trend of the speechs that were going on here I am inclined to think that on account of the personalities involved in the issue many of the Members have been making conditional statements. The Hon'ble Member for Adoor was pleased to say that if it is like that you must support, if it is like this you must oppose. I would put the case to the best of my thinking and in the plainest term possible. It cannot be said that the assignment would not hamper the natural growth of the musuem. That particular site was acquired for the

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development of the musuem and it is the most suitable place for the expansion of the musuem so that if the Government had any idea of further extending the musuem they had no business to assign that plot to private parties.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—It could extend westwards.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—No. When they acquired a particular site it must be assumed that that was the best place for the expansion of the musuem at Trichur. So that a site acquired for a public purpose with a definite end in view should not have been assigned to private parties. I strongly enter my emphatic protest as a matter of principle. There is a tendency with our Government as well as with the British Government to assign such useful and important lands to persons highly placed. In British India the tendency is to give the best house sites to Europeans. In our State the best sites are assigned to the members of the Royal Family and persons connected with them. Against that policy I protest. But there are one or two attenuating considerations coming in this matter and that is the particular site in question is assigned to a person who richly deserves any site in the State. Nobody in the State will grumble against any site in the State being granted to that respectable lady and I for myself would be glad that she has been well provided for in her retirement. There is that consideration. Now there is another consideration in favour of the assignment and that is it has already been achieved and the prestige of the Government would suffer to go back on an assignment made to a private party. Of course, whatever may be the merits of the action taken, when once the Government has done an act like this it has to be supported? On these two considerations certainly the assignment ought to be supported. On the other ground can this action of the Government be supported? Now, one other request that I have got to make to the Government is that on this ground the musuem should not be shifted to Anappara. Let it not be hereafter said that the zoo had to be shifted to Anappara on account of the assignment of this plot to this lady. The whole trouble with regard to Anappara came in this fashion. Some people went and purchased some lands in and about Anappara and then to enhance the value of that plot a College had to be started there. The whole sin of Anappara was conceived in this fashion. Let it not be repeated in this matter of the zoo. Now that the assignment had been given, let it not be hereafter taken as an excuse for shifting the zoo or the musuem to Anappara. That will be a repetition of the original sin of Anappara.

Now on the merits of the question whether the zoo has to be extended or not I do not want to speak much at

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this stage. In my humble view there is no necessity to develop these institutions at present. It may be that those donkeys and monkeys can very well be left to themselves. I do not think our State, under the existing financial conditions, can spend much of its revenue on these animals. Of course, the museum as an abstract idea will be good but the point is whether our Government can afford it. If the idea of the Government is to take these animals to Anappara I submit it will serve no useful purpose at all. They will be found in large numbers in the forests that are said to be near Anappara and it will have greater educative value if the citizens are asked to go and meet them in their original homes. With these observations I support the motion.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Sir, those who have been speaking about the existence of the zoo there have never been to a house close to it. If they go to a house close to it they will know what nuisance that zoo makes to the adjacent residents. The Hon'ble Member for Kattur said that he had some information from the persons near the Brahmaswam Madhom.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—I didn't say.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I had an occasion to go to one of the Houses near the zoo to see a patient. While there the stench emanating from the zoo was so very bad that I had to ask them to shift the patient from there and I made enquiries and they all said that they have this complaint very often. If I had any influence over the Trichur Municipality I would have long ago requested them to approach the Government to have the zoo removed from that place a mile or two towards the north.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Probably the zoo is not kept clean.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—We know more or less the smell emanating from the mouth of these tigers. One house where so many people congregate, to the south of the zoo, is so near the place where the animals are kept that it is a wonder why they did not leave the place and go away. It is all right to say that we must have a zoo and we must have a museum. Museum can be there and there is enough space for the museum. The zoo should on no account be kept there. It will be a nuisance to the Trichur public. With these few words I oppose the motion.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I never wanted to take part in the discussion of this resolution because I thought that the Government would accept the spirit of this resolution. I don't know what the Hon'ble mover of the resolution had in

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mind when he tabled this motion, whatever insinuations it is capable of and such other things. When I heard that Hon'ble Member I thought that there was no much room for any apprehension on this score. To the best of my recollection or to the best of my understanding what he said in fact was this, that this museum and the zoo are serving a very useful purpose so far as the Trichur public is concerned. There seems to be a portion of land adjoining that museum which was some years ago intended for the extension of that museum and which has been given to somebody else. There is also a rumour that there is some chance of the museum and zoo itself being removed. It was only to allay the apprehensions of the people as regards the removal of the museum or the zoo from that particular locality that that gentleman brought forward this resolution. To the best of my understanding that was, apart from the side remarks, what, I thought, the Hon'ble Member wanted this House to understand. To my humble thinking the question of the assignment of the land is quite irrelevant for the consideration of this resolution. This resolution if it has any place, is to allay the public apprehension about the removal of that museum and zoo from that locality and the Hon'ble Member who moved the resolution went even to the length of suggesting that when the Government thinks that it should be necessary that there should be more space the place to the west of it may be taken and even pointed out that the Government may extend it that side by closing the road between the two compounds. So I don't know how the Government thinks or what is the justification for some of the Hon'ble Members to think that there are insinuations and other things behind. I do not know whether it is capable of insinuation. That is not my concern. I am only concerned with this question, whether the Government has any idea of removing the existing museum and zoo from that place. If they have any idea I enter my emphatic protest against that.

The question of the assignment of the particular place is quite irrelevant to the discussion and I am sure that if, as a matter of fact, that Hon'ble lady is made to understand that the giving of that place will deprive the Trichur public of that place of resort, she will be the first to come forward and say 'I don't want this place', because it must be remembered, in the words of the Hon'ble Member for Adoor, it is a poor man's luxury. I would also add it is the children's luxury. I have watched the people who go to that museum. I am a close neighbour of the museum and I am sure that out of the three

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lakhs of people who have visited the place 90 per cent are poor children. And do you think that these people would go to Anappara or any other place and be benefitted by the museum, if it is shifted to any other place? Evidently, of this 90 per cent again 75 per cent go there to see the zoo alone and not the museum. They are more interested in the zoo than the museum, because young children enjoy the sight of these animals. I have seen teachers taking classes as a whole and say 'here is the lion standing' and soon, giving them object lessons. Thus direct method of teaching has been resorted to by classes. Will that be possible if it is shifted to any other place? The zoo was at one time located at a nearer place than Anappara, I mean Viyyoor. It was not then patronised and the Government thought that it did not serve any purpose and they had to give up that zoo some years ago. Now, they have brought it to a central place quite accessible to all classes of people. There are occasions also for people from all parts of the State to flock there, such as, Pooram, the Inter-School Sports and other occasions when they make it a point to go and see and enjoy the sight of the zoo. We have never heard of any nuisance caused to the local people still this discussion arose. To my humble thinking they are all manufactured for the occasion. It has not become such an obnoxious nuisance to the locality. After all there are only two or three houses near and they have very big compounds. It is not a congested place and if the place is properly kept, observing all the rules of sanitation, I do not think that under the existing circumstances, at any rate, there need be any apprehension on the score of nuisance. I would rather request the Government not to develop the zoo or museum. I would rather tell them that we are content with what we have. Please don't remove that at least. Let there be only a few lions or a few animals that we have now, so that our poor young children may at least have the benefit of seeing these animals. It is considerations like this that made me stand up and I would once more request the Government to consider the spirit of the resolution. Unfortunately the mover is not here. I don't know what exactly was in his mind. What he was anxious about was that the Government should never think of removing the existing museum and zoo from that place. With these few words, I support this motion.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—This resolution on paper may appear quite harmless. But the facts disclosed from the discussions clearly indicate that the resolution is intended to condemn the action of the Government in assigning that particular piece of land to the consort of the late Ex-Maharaja. I do not think it is proper. So I oppose this resolution.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, as the Hon'ble Member for Trichur said that there is more of insinuation than any real purpose in this resolution, I move under S. O. 26 that the Council may pass to the next business.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I second it.

Motion for adjournment put and carried.

2. Grant to Municipalities—Fixing the minimum.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—"This Council recommends to the Government that orders may be passed fixing a minimum grant to the several Municipalities of the State so as to enable them to frame their budgets in future with an approximate idea of their receipts from this source."

Sir, as the resolution is self-explanatory I shall only read it now.

The object of the motion is also made clear at the fag end of it. Now the only question that may arise in the mind of the Government is with regard to the grant itself, i. e., whether the Government will be required to make an additional grant in the sense that they have now committed themselves to grant. With regard to that also I may just inform the House that according to the orders passed with regard to the grant of maintenance allowance for trunk roads of the Municipalities they are entitled to a certain amount according to the mileage of the roads under their control. At least even that sum may be made a preliminary grant so that the Municipalities may frame their budgets with some idea as to their sources from this particular item. It is only to enable the Municipality to anticipate more or less correctly their income that I want to request the Government to make this preliminary grant so that as the time is approaching for framing the budget it may be done. It will not involve any additional grant.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I second it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The road grant will be communicated to the Municipality sufficiently early to give them time to frame their budget.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—On that assurance I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

3. Water supply to houses served by one service connection.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, my resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in cases where more than one house is served by the same service connection, a free allowance

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